

Notification of Actions

To: R3_Front_Office[[HYPERLINK "mailto:R3_ISO@epa.gov"](mailto:R3_ISO@epa.gov)]

Cc: Other points of contact as appropriate

Subject: Notification of action needed on PADEP exceptional event approval package

Title of Document or Matter: PADEP May 24-26, 2016 Ozone Exceptional Event Request

Programmatic Point of Contact: Alice H. Chow, (215) 814- 2144, chow.alice@epa.gov

Background: Exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality and influence a state or local (S/L) air agency's ability to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Exceptional events include (but are not limited to) wildfires, high wind dust events, stratospheric ozone intrusions, and volcanic and seismic activities. S/Ls may formally request EPA (via submission of a demonstration package) to have their affected monitoring data excluded from use in NAAQS determinations (40 CFR Part 50.14).

In May 2016, fires near Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada lofted a smoke plume which impacted ozone concentrations across most of the Northeast United States. This event was tied to ozone exceedances of the 70 ppb (2015) and 75 ppb (2008) NAAQS in Pennsylvania. As a result, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection proposed that exclusion of these data points would impact attainment of the NAAQS, and 2016 and future design values.

On May 31, 2017, Region 3 received an initial demonstration package for the Ft. McMurray event from PADEP for review. A final demonstration was received by Region 3 on February 26, 2018 that included comments from Olympus Power, LLC and responses from PADEP. The final demonstration was reviewed by Region 3 and exceedance dates at the affected monitors were placed into three categories (concur, defer, non-concur) depending on their current, potential, or lack of regulatory significance.

Proposed Action: For more specific information on PADEP monitors and proposed decisions, please see Attachment.

Proposed Recipients: Krishnan Ramamurthy, Director, Bureau of Air Quality,
Nick Lazor, Director, Division of Air Quality Monitoring

Sensitivity Determination: There is no known political sensitivity identified at this time.

Approximate Date of Signature Needed: April 1, 2018

Explanation of Date Needed: Ozone attainment designations will be made by April 30th, 2018. The decision to exclude some data pertaining to the Ft. McMurray exceptional event, may affect the attainment status of certain areas.